A library for children

A CHILDREN's library has been established in Bahawalpur. It was inaugurated by Punjab Minister for Education Brig (Retd) Zulfiqar Ali Dhillon.

The library has been set up on the premises of Bahawalpur's oldest and only library — the State Library. The Children's library complex was constructed at a cost of over Rs one million some time back, but it could not be formally inaugurated earlier.

Attratively designed, the library has a collection of valuable books and other reading material meant for children. It has also different toys and playgames. It has also been equipped with audo/ video cassette facilities, and the Life Time Encyclopaedia is also available.

The Punjab minister expressed his pleasure over the design of the State Library built by the late Nawab Muhammad Sadiq Khan Abbasi. He asked the deputy commissioner to prepare a plan for the library's renovation and announced a grnat of Rs 500,000 for the children's library.

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ENCROACHMENTS in various bazars and roads comprise a continuous nuisance for the citizens. A few months back the district administration with the cooperation of the local trading community had launched a massive operation against the removal of encroachments and illegal construction at the roads and main bazars.

With the passage of time, these encroachments have now again cropped up, creating a hurdle in the smooth flow of traffic and difficulties for pedestrians, particularly women folk in the small congested bazaars of the city.

At the time of the launching of the operation, representatives from cross-section of society at a gathering convened by the deputy commissioner had suggested that the removal of encroachments and other unlawful constructions should be a continuous process and there should be a constant check by the traffic police and the municipal corporation. But, this was not done with the result that now the city is again full of encroachments.

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THE unscheduled and frequent loadshedding in the city and suburbs is creating hardships not only for the people but for industrial concerns as well.

Bahawalpur is a cotton growing area, which has hundreds of ginning factories and oil mills. With the unscheduled shutdown of power, production in the ginning factories is adversely affected. Moreover, some of the big industrial units located in the small industrial estates are also facing power problems.

The feeling is that if loadshedding is unavoidable, a proper schedule should be announced which takes into account the need of industrial and commercial concerns.

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WITH the advent of Ramazan, prices of all essential commodities have shot up despite warnings by the local price control committee headed by the deputy commissioner.

There is no let-up by the shopkeepers who are overcharging in the city without any fear. Even the supply of eggs to the city has been suspended by the owners of the poultry farms. The price of beef has also increased.

In a meeting of the district price control committee, an assurance was held out by the traders' representative that prices will be kept at a reasonable level, but that is not honoured. Now it is for the administration to enforce its decisions.